

Top Secret



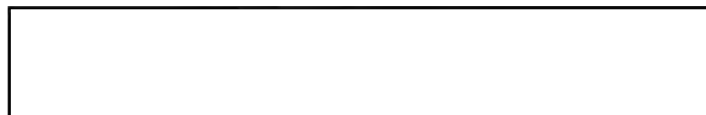
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C O N T E N T S

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ETHIOPIA: Government is concerned over Somali intentions.
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ETHIOPIA: The government again is highly exercised over Somali military intentions.

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Addis Ababa reportedly has increased the readiness of some military units and has established a group to study Somali military capabilities.

Ethiopia's concern is based largely on recent Somali troop movements near the border of the French Territory of Afars and Issas (FTAI), which is claimed by both countries. Addis Ababa is also worried over deliveries to Somalia of Soviet jet fighters and ground forces equipment during the past year.

Ethiopia and Somalia long have been at odds over Mogadiscio's claims to FTAI and parts of Ethiopia inhabited by large numbers of ethnic Somalis. Relations between the two countries have been correct since 1968, but Somalia has not given up its territorial claims.

The situation on the border will probably remain tense for some time, but it is unlikely that either country would be willing to provoke large-scale military action. The Somalis have a realistic view of Ethiopia's military superiority, while the Ethiopians would be reluctant to divert troops from counterinsurgency operations in Eritrea.

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